

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached “Replacement Sheets” of drawings include changes to Figures 4-7 and 9-10. The attached “Replacement Sheets,” which include Figures 4-7 and 9-10, replace the original sheets including Figures 4-7 and 9-10.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the present application. Claims 2-23 and 25-51 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 24 were previously cancelled. Claims 2-23 and 25-51 have been cancelled herein. New claims 52-57 are newly added. Applicant requests the Examiner to consider the newly-added claims.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Applicant acknowledges the election of Species I directed to claim 4. However, after cancelling the previous set of claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement is moot.

DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended the drawings according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings now conform to the Rules.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out several areas that require correction in the Specification. Applicant has amended various places of the specification to correspond to the Examiner's suggestions. However, paragraph [0037] refers to reference numeral 30A. However, there is no 30A in the Figure. Applicant has placed the parenthetical "illustrated in Fig. 3" next to reference numeral 30A since it is not shown in Figs. 7, 8 and 9. Likewise, paragraph 41 was also not amended but rather the parenthetical "illustrated in Fig. 1" was placed next to the first instance of deck 30.

TITLE

The title has been changed to “ANCHOR DEVICE FOR REMOVABLY COUPLING A DEVICE TO A DECK SURFACE.”

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-7, 9-12, 15-23, 25, 26, 28-30, and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. These claims have been cancelled and the new claims do not include the wording “a rectangular shape” or a “fixed-dimension notch.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 2-7, 9-12, 15-23, 25, 26, 28-30, and 33-35 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been cancelled and therefore this rejection is believed to be rendered moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-7, 9-11, 21, 12, 15, 17-19, 20, 26, 25, 28-30, 33, 35, and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Specktor (U.S. Pat. No. 4,138,877). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The above-mentioned claims have been cancelled and thus this rejection has been rendered moot. The Specktor reference does include an attachment member 70 that is located roughly within the middle of the plate 54. The Specktor reference thus does not include an

anchor body that has a first body portion having a first lateral end and a second body portion that has a second lateral end spaced longitudinally apart from the first lateral end so that a notch in the first lateral end receives an edge of the deck. As is illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, the deck may be a pair of planes spaced apart. The notch may extend so that both planes are received therein. The coupler extends outward from the opening and is positioned adjacent to the second lateral end opposite the first lateral end. By providing the coupler at the opposite end to the notch, the forces during pulling may be more evenly distributed across the surface of the deck.

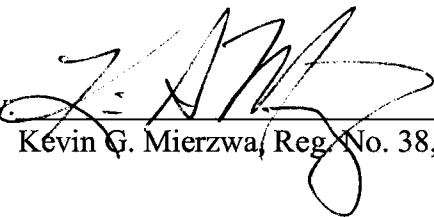
Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the new claims in view of the comments above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 2, 2010

By: 
Kevin G. Mierzwa, Reg. No. 38,049

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

KGM/tp

15360127.1